

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ILO PLAB
SUBJECT: USREP HOROWITZ'S REMARKS -- PLENARY DEBATE ON REPORT
OF COMMITTEE ON APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS

1. FOLLOWING IS SUBJECT TEXT. BEGIN TEXT:

MR. HOROWITZ (GOVERNMENT DELEGATE, UNITED STATES) -- THIS DEBATE HAS GONE ON FOR SEVERAL HOURS, UNFORTUNATELY FOR PART OF IT WITH A GOOD DEAL OF EMOTION. I HOPE WE ALL REALISE HOW FUNDAMENTAL THE QUESTION IS THAT IS POSED FOR US THIS AFTERNOON. THAT SOME MIGHT, PERHAPS, BE IRRITATED BY CRITICISMS IN THE REPORT RELATING TO THEIR GOVERNMENTS AND OBJECT TO THE REPORT IS UNFORTUNATE BUT PERHAPS UNDERSTANDABLE. AND I SAY UNFORTUNATE BECAUSE THE VERY PROCEDURE WHICH THIS ORGANISATION HAS DEVELOPED OVER THE YEARS NECESSARILY INVOLVES EVENTUALLY PLACING BEFORE THE CONFERENCE JUDGEMENTS MADE ON THE BASIS OF OBJECTIVE INVESTIGATION, AND THEREFORE WE HAVE EXPOSED OURSELVES TO JUDGEMENTS CONSCIOUSLY. WHAT I FIND MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND IS WHAT HAS LED MOST SPEAKERS TO SPEAK ON AN ISSUE WHICH IS NOT EVEN MENTIONED IN THE REPORT, BUT IS CONTAINED IN ONE OF THE APPENDICES, NAMELY THE QUESTION RELATING TO CONVENTION NO. 111 AND THE QUESTIONS RAISED ON THE PART OF THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS CONCERNING THE APPLICATION OF THAT CONVENTION BY ISRAEL IN ITS UNCLASSIFIED

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OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.

AFTER THE EXPLANATION OF THE EMINENT INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN JURIST, PROFESSOR AGO, IT WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE PRETENTIOUS ON MY PART TO MAKE ANY COMMENTS ON THE JURIDICIAL ASPECTS OF THE QUESTION; THOSE ARE PERFECTLY CLEAR. WHAT DOES REMAIN, AND LET US PUT IT STRAIGHTFORWARDLY, IS THE CONCERN WITH THE

CONDITIONS OF ARAB WORKERS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, AND WHAT WE HAVE IN THIS REGARD.

FIRST, AS A RESULT OF A LETTER ISSUED BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL AND CONVERSATIONS SURROUNDING THAT LETTER, WE AVOIDED IN THIS CONFERENCE, JUST A WEEK AGO, WHAT WOULD HAVE BEEN A MOST UNFORTUNATE CONFRONTATION, WITH NO DOUBT AN EFFORT MADE TO DISREGARD THE BASIC CONSTITUTION AND RULES OF THIS CONFERENCE. THAT WAS ALL AVOIDED. I MUST SAY THAT I DO FIND VERY STRANGE THE INTERPRETATIONS PLACED ON THAT LETTER BY MANY, AS THEY ARE IN EFFECT AN ACCUSATION AGAINST THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL THAT HE WOULD ACT IN A WAY CONTRARY TO PROCEDURES AND PRINCIPLES OF THIS ORGANISATION -- I DO NOT BELIEVE IT.

BUT THEN IT WOULD BE PRETENTIOUS OF ME ALSO TO INTERPRET FOR THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL WHAT HE MEANT BY THE LANGUAGE HE USED IN THAT LETTER; IT IS FOR HIM TO SAY WHAT HE MEANT IN THAT LETTER. I AM PUZZLED; IF WE ARE REALLY CONCERNED ABOUT CONDITIONS OF WORKERS, WHAT DOES THE ILO PROVIDE AS MACHINERY FOR SUCH CONCERN? NOT POLITICAL DECLARATIONS IN CONFERENCE; NOT CONDEMNATIONS WITHOUT REGARD TO FACTS; EVENTUALLY THAT ONLY DESTROYS THE ORGANISATION AND THE MACHINERY WHICH HAS BEEN BUILT UP BY THIS ORGANISATION OVER 50-ODD YEARS. IT PROVIDES THAT MACHINERY FOR INVESTIGATION WHICH HAS GRADUALLY BEEN GUILT UP TO ITS CREDIT; TO THE CREDIT OF THE ORGANISATION AND ITS MEMBERSHIP; THAT MACHINERY WHICH HAS BEEN BUILT UP THROUGH THESE

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MANY YEARS, INDEPENDENT, YES OBJECTIVE, AND IN THIS CASE THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS REPRESENTING INTERNATIONAL JURISTS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD, WHO DO EACH YEAR REVIEW THE EXTENT TO WHICH OBLIGATIONS UNDER CONVENTIONS ARE LIVED UP TO.

I AM ASTONISHED AT THE COMMENT OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE AMBASSADOR OF EGYPT, WHEN HE MAKES REFERENCE TO THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS AND THE RESOLUTION OF 1974 AND CONCLUDES, LIKE OTHER DELEGATES WHO HAVE TAKEN THIS ROSTRUM, THAT SOMEHOW THAT MACHINERY WHICH HAS EARNED THE RESPECT OF THE WORLD COMMUNITY, WHICH HAS DEVELOPED A MORAL FORCE, WHICH IS THE MOST IMPORTANT WEAPON AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION CAN HAVE FOR THE APPLICATION OF STANDARDS, THAT THAT MACHINERY SHOULD NOT APPLY TO A PROBLEM, HE SAYS, OTHERS HAVE SAID, THEY HAVE CONCERN WITH, BUT THAT INSTEAD THERE SHOULD BE SOMEHOW A POLITICAL DECLARATION AND THAT THIS WOULD MAKE EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT.

THIS ORGANISATION, THROUGH THE MANY YEARS OF ITS EXISTENCE, IS RIGHTLY PROUD, OR PERHAPS I SHOULD PUT THAT IN THE PAST TENSE, I HOPE NOT, HAS BEEN RIGHTLY PROUD OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE ORGANISATION AND ITS MEMBERSHIP IN THE IMPROVEMENT OF WORKING CONDITIONS AROUND THE WORLD AND IN ITS CONCERN FOR WORKERS. AN

INTEGRAL PART OF THAT CONTRIBUTION, NO, THE FUNDAMENTAL PART OF THAT CONTRIBUTION, HAS BEEN ITS CONTINUING CONCERN AND INTEREST AS A RESULT OF OBJECTIVE INVESTIGATION AND THEN THE BRINGING TO BEAR OF MORAL FORCE WHICH THAT OBJECTIVITY HAS EARNED FOR THE ORGANISATION OR PROBLEMS BROUGHT BEFORE IT.

WHEN IT IS SAID THAT THE COMMITTEE CANNOT PERFORM ITS FUNCTIONS, BECAUSE ONLY THE GOVERNMENT INVOLVED IN ADOPTING THE CONVENTION HAS THE OPPORTUNITY OF PRESENTING FACTS BEFORE THAT COMMITTEE, MAY I SAY THAT WHOEVER SAYS THIS MAY BE AN EXTRAORDINARY EXPERT IN OTHER ORGANISATIONS BUT KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT THE PROCEDURE OF THE ILO. THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS, AS WE ALL KNOW, NOT ONLY TAKES INTO ACCOUNT RESPONSES MADE BY THE GOVERNMENT TO WHICH IT HAS ADDRESSED QUESTIONS, BUT WELCOMES ANY OTHER INFORMATION FROM UNCLASSIFIED

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ANY OTHER SOURCE SUPPLIED TO IT AND TAKES THAT ALL INTO CONSIDERATION. LET US BE AWARE OF THIS, LET US NOT MISREPRESENT WHAT HAPPENS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS.

WE ARE, I THINK, AS THE UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF LABOR, A WEEK AGO TODAY, SAID FROM THIS PLATFORM, WE ARE INDEED IN THIS CONFERENCE AT A CROSSROADS. ARE WE TO DESTROY WHAT IT TOOK OVER 50 YEARS TO BUILD OR CONTINUE IN THE TRADITION OF WHICH WE HAVE ALL IN THE PAST BEEN PROUD?

WHAT IS IT WE ARE FACED WITH THIS AFTERNOON? WE ARE FACED WITH A REPORT, MADE BY A COMMITTEE OF THIS CONFERENCE, WHICH FOR MORE THAN TWO WEEKS SERIOUSLY REVIEWED THE FINDINGS, THE EXAMINATION OF MANY CASES MADE BY THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS, THAT GROUP OF INTERNATIONAL OBJECTIVE INDEPENDENT JURISTS. IF WE REJECT THIS REPORT, BY WHATEVER MEANS, AND WHAT IS BEING RECOMMENDED IS ABSTENTION, UNLESS WE UPHOLD THIS REPORT, WHAT IS IT WE ARE DOING WITH RESPECT TO THE INSTITUTIONS OF THIS ORGANISATION? ARE WE REPUDIATING THE EXISTENCE OF THAT MACHINERY REPRESENTED BY THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS? ARE WE SERIOUSLY INTERESTED IN THE WELFARE OF THE ORGANISATION AND THE CONTRIBUTION IT HAS MADE AND CAN MAKE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. THIS IS WHAT IS AT STAKE HERE.

THERE HAS BEEN A GOOD DEAL OF EMOTION THIS AFTERNOON REFLECTED ON THIS PLATFORM. I SIMPLY WANT TO CONCLUDE BY SAYING THAT INDEED WHAT WE ARE FACED WITH IS A FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION. I HAVE CONFIDENCE, AS WE DO PREPARE TO VOTE ON THIS ISSUE THAT WE SHALL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THOSE THINGS THAT ARE RELEVANT -- THAT IS OUR OWN INTEREST -- WHETHER WE BE GOVERNMENT, EMPLOYERS' OR WORKERS' REPRESENTATIVES, BUT ALSO LET US CONSIDER WHAT WE MAY BE DOING TO THIS ORGANISATION AND THE INSTITUTIONS OF WHICH WE HAVE ALL BEEN SO PROUD. END TEST. SORENSON UNCLASSIFIED

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Decaption Note:
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